



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Committee on Public Health**

**March 6, 2023**

**Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD  
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**SENATE BILL 1077 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACCEPTANCE BY PHYSICIANS OF PATIENTS WHO ARE MEDICAID RECIPIENTS**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) provides the following information opposing Section 2 of Senate Bill 1077 which would provide physicians immunity from civil, criminal, and certain licensure actions that may arise from or relates to a physician's provision of health care services to patients who are Medicaid recipients. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this issue.

While DPH appreciates and supports the intention of reducing barriers to physicians accepting patients who are Medicaid recipients, DPH strongly believes that a physician should be held to the same standard and treated equally by the system that regulates the practice of medicine regardless of a patient's payment mechanism for the services provided by a physician. This bill presents serious health equity concerns. Simply because a patient is on Medicaid does not mean they should receive substandard care with no recourse if they are harmed by a physician.

The exception the bill provides to this immunity for gross negligence and willful and wanton misconduct will only cover the most serious and depraved acts by a physician, leaving without punishment or remedy any number of unsafe practices that may cause life altering injury to a patient, allowing physicians to continue these unsafe practices and risk injuring additional patients.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. DPH encourages committee members to reach out with any questions.

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